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S/N: 09/620,581
Reply to Office Action of January 12, 2005

Atty Dkt No. VEI 0319 PUS

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An occupant protection system for deploying a deployable air bag from a ~~concealed location in a~~ vehicle instrument panel having an opening, the protection system comprising:

an air bag normally ~~containable~~ in a deflated condition immediately adjacent the instrument panel opening and deployable through the instrument panel opening as a protection for the occupant; and

and a portion of said skin forming
the air bag having a skin ~~and including~~ a closure portion of that ~~skin completely~~ closes provides the sole closure of the instrument panel opening and is directly exposed to an occupant compartment of the vehicle when the air bag is deflated, and ~~remaining as a the~~ closure portion of the air bag ~~after moving outwardly from the instrument panel opening as~~ the air bag is deployed.

2.-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) In combination, a vehicle having an air bag deployable upon vehicle impact and an occupant protection system for deploying a deployable air bag from a ~~concealed location in a~~ vehicle instrument panel having an opening, the protection system comprising:

an air bag normally ~~containable~~ in a deflated condition immediately adjacent the instrument panel opening and deployable upon vehicle impact through the instrument panel opening as a protection for the occupant; and

the air bag having a skin ~~and including~~ a closure portion of that ~~skin completely~~ closes provides the sole closure of the instrument panel opening and is directly exposed to an occupant compartment of the vehicle when the air bag is deflated, and ~~remaining as a the~~ closure portion of the air bag ~~after moving outwardly from the instrument panel opening as~~ the air bag is deployed.